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Senate Bill 8 **2nd Called Session of the 79th Legislature** *by Senator Florence Shapiro*

Property Tax Relief and Local Capacity

- Compresses tax rates to a maximum rate of \$1.25 in 2006 and \$1.20 in 2007.
- Allows local enrichment of \$0.15, up to \$0.05 per biennium with a vote of the citizens for each increase. During the 2006-07 school year, a one time transitional capacity of 2 cents with local board approval, with the remaining 3 cents subject to voter approval.
- Guarantees a yield on local enrichment equalized at dollar amounts equivalent to the 92nd percentile in 06-07, increasing that guarantee to 93% in 07-08 and 94% in 08-09, then expressed in percentiles of 95% in 09-10, and ultimately reaching the 96th percentile in 10-11, achieving the highest level of equity in history.

Educators

- Increases teacher salaries by \$3,000 on average. Teachers will receive at least \$1,500 more in 05-06 (which includes restoration of the health insurance pass-through as salary) and districts will have the discretion to use an additional \$500 for support staff. Teachers will receive at least \$2,750 increase in 06-07 and districts will have another \$250 to use at their discretion for support staff.
- Provides teachers the option to set-aside a portion of their salary (in an amount determined by the employee) each year to cover health insurance premiums tax-free.
- Provides teacher incentives to reward academic achievement and improvement through both locally developed plans and a statewide system, which are both funded through a state grant program.
- Encourages experienced teachers to remain in the classroom by providing a TRS Longevity Incentive that will provide additional payments of \$1,000-\$4,000 annually for each year a teacher remains past the Rule of 80.

Modernization of the formulas

- New formulas provide updates to certain items such as the Cost of Education Index, small and mid-size adjustments, bilingual and compensatory education student funding, as well as transportation.
- Covers 50% of Social Security costs for districts who previously opted into the system; implementation phased-in over three years.
- Ensures every district receives a minimum 3% increase in the formulas in 06-07.

Accountability

- Holds schools accountable for unacceptable performance and provides consequences, assistance, and intervention to ensure improvement.
- Strengthens and increases financial accountability by requiring TEA to link a district's financial health with academic performance and provides more information for the public regarding district and campus spending.
- Increases the amount of academic and financial accountability for charter schools and rewards high performing charters.

Pre-Kindergarten - College Preparation

- Provides state funding for any student who chooses to take college entrance exams such as the ACT or SAT, including pre-testing as well.
- Requires that schools be rated on their ability to prepare students for post-secondary success.

School District Governance and Operations

- Increases funding for the New Instructional Facilities Allotment (NIFA), specifically targeting fast-growth districts.
- Requires that school districts spend at least 65% of *available* funds (excluding obligated debt service and federal funds) on instruction, including instruction in all curriculum subject areas. Allows Commissioner flexibility in computing available funds.

Instructional Materials

- Increases flexibility and focuses funding on upgrading technology in the classroom, expands the Technology Immersion Pilot (TIP), and funds Proclamation 2002 textbooks.
- Provides for Target Tech Programs in each district to isolate and target campus and/or grade levels putting an emphasis on technology as a vehicle to convey instruction. The instructional materials allotment will be \$150 per student starting in 07-08.